recommendations on the National Commission on Labour especially relating retrenchment, lay-off and closure. However, they have also suggested for further consultations in the matter. The Government has already started tripartite consultations on the recommendations of the Commission with various social partners. The recommendations were also discussed in the 38th Session of Indian Labour Conference held on 28-29 September, 2002 and at a National Seminar on Unorganised Sector Workers held on 7-8 November, 2002. A Tripartite Committee meeting is also proposed to be convened in the month of Februrary, 2003 for processing the recommendations in the report of Second National Commission on Labour.

Contract workers' right

1730. SHRI PREM CHAND GUPTA: Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that as per the existing labour laws considerable protection and justice is provided to the workers of the organised sector whereas the workers of the unorganised sector are fraught with injustice and without protection of their basic rights; and

(b) if so, whether Government plan to correct this anomaly and ensure protection of contract workers' rights?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR (SHRI ASHOK PRADHAN): (a) and (b) The Government is aware that the unorganized sector workers generally do not have the same level of protection as the organized sector workers. The recommendations of the National Commission on Labour relating to the workers in the unorganized sector would form the basis for ensuring their minimum protection and welfare. With a view to give legislative protection to contract workers, the Government have enacted the Contract Labour (Regulation and Abolition) Act, 1970 which seeks to regulate the employment of contract labour in certain establishments and provides for its abolition in certain circumstances. The Act and Rules made thereunder protect the interests of contract labour in respect of their working conditions, payment of wages and other amenities relating to their welfare and health.